

Amendments to the Specification:

Please insert the following section headings after the title on page 1:

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

Please insert the following section heading between lines 5 and 6 on page 1:

2. Description of the Prior Art

Please insert the following section heading between page 2, prior to line 1:

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Please replace the paragraph beginning on line 1 of page 3 with the following amended paragraph:

After the first retrieval phase, the terminal device is capable of presenting the first part of the message, the first N characters of the body, to the user. The user can then decide whether she wants to retrieve the remainder of the body, if any, as indicated by the first flag. The terminal device also alerts the user to the presence of any attachments on the basis of the second flag or flags. If there are any remaining parts of the message the user wishes to retrieve, one or more of those remaining parts are retrieved in the second retrieval phase. The user may

retrieve further message parts in a third, fourth, or subsequent phase.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on line 16 of page 3 with the following amended paragraph:

The integer N indicating the number of characters initially retrieved from the server may be a fixed number, set by the hardware manufacturer or by a system maintenance technician. In an advantageous embodiment, the number N is set by the server, ~~possible is~~ possibly in response to system and/or terminal device requirements. However, in another advantageous embodiment of the invention, the number N is determined by a user of the terminal device. That is, the user may be capable of setting and/or adjusting the number of characters retrieved during the first retrieval phase. The number (integer) N may be determined in accordance with user preferences and/or hardware limitations such as a screen size. It is preferred that the number P indicating the number of characters (if any) retrieved during a second or subsequent retrieval phase is also determined by the user. It is noted that the number P may be equal to the number N, but this is not required. Similarly, the number of characters (if any) retrieved during a third or fourth retrieval phase, if applicable, may be equal but does not need to be equal to P and may be different numbers Q and R respectively.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on line 6 of page 4 with the following amended paragraph:

It is noted that instead of, or in addition to, the maximum number of characters retrieved during a retrieval phase, a maximum number of lines may be defined. Alternatively, or additionally, a mechanism may be provided which avoids text being cut off in the middle of a word or a sentence. Such a mechanism may shorten or possibly slightly lengthen the message so that any retrieval phase ends, for example, with a space or a period.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on line 12 of page 4 with the following amended paragraph:

When executing the further step of the terminal device requesting, in response to the first and/or second flag, the server to transmit a further P characters and/or at least one selected attachment respectively, these further characters and/or selected attachment(s) are preferably sent to the terminal device. It is, however, also possible for the server to send the message parts of the second or further phase to another device, such as a desktop PC, a fax machine, ~~etc.~~etc.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on line 18 of page 4 with the following amended paragraph:

The server may carry out automatic mail box management, thus relieving the user of this task. In a preferred embodiment, for example, the server erases the message after transmission if there is no remaining text and no

attachments. Conversely, the server preferably retains the message if any remaining characters or any attachments are not yet transmitted. However, this may be made subject to storage capacity. When the server stores messages in a mailbox having a limited capacity, a partially transmitted message may be erased if additional mailbox capacity is required. That is, remaining parts of messages left on the server may, for example, be deleted if any incoming messages require storage while insufficient storage capacity is left. The deletion of remaining parts of messages may depend on their age, parts of older messages preferably being deleted first.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on line 1 of page 5 with the following amended paragraph:

The present invention further provides a system for retrieving electronic messages, the system comprising a server and a terminal device, wherein the messages comprise a header and a body capable of containing characters, the server and the terminal device being capable of establishing a communications link, wherein

- the server is arranged for transmitting the header and the first N characters of the body of a message to the terminal device, where N is a predetermined integer, while holding back any remaining characters and any attachments,
- the server is arranged for transmitting a flag indicative of any remaining characters of the body and any attachments to the terminal device.

Advantageously, the flag may comprise a first flag indicative of any remaining characters and a second flag

indicative of any attachments. Alternatively, the flag may be omitted if no further characters and no attachments are available.

Please insert the following section heading on page 6, prior to line 1:

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Please insert the following section heading between lines 16 and 17 on page 6:

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Please replace the paragraph beginning on line 3 of page 10 with the following amended paragraph:

A preferred embodiment of the present invention is based upon the i-mode mail protocol. In this embodiment, both full retrieval according to the Prior Art and phased retrieval according to the present invention are available. Existing parameters of the i-mode mail protocol are used to convey the additional information required. For example, the ATT parameter in the GET request and the X-EID header are used to distinguish between full retrieval and phased retrieval and to identify messages ~~respectively~~respectively. An additional HTTP header, X-MP, is introduced to act as the flags of the present invention, that is, to allow the server to communicate to the client whether there are any remaining message parts. No changes to the syntax of the existing protocol are necessary.